

The Desert SUSTAINER

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Serving the soldiers of LSA Anaconda and Sustainer Army Airfield

Christmas comes to LSA Anaconda

Story and photos by Sgt. Grant Calease
3d COSCOM Public Affairs Office

Now that Thanksgiving is over and Christmas is right around the corner, the soldiers stationed at Logistical Support Area Anaconda are getting in the holiday spirit.

The 3d Corps Support Command's chaplain section is busy preparing for the coming holiday.

"We're trying to heighten the holiday spirit of every soldier on LSA Anaconda," said Col. Andy Bacon, the 3d COSCOM's chaplain.



Spc. Janett Henriquez talks on the phone in the 19th Support Center's office, which she helped decorate.

Many events are taking place leading up to Christmas to help soldiers enjoy the holiday.

The Army Materiel Command's band will be playing at various sites

around LSA Anaconda for 10 days prior to Christmas, Christmas caroling by different units is ongoing at the chow halls, as well as a group from Tikrit traveling to the base to perform a Christmas musical, said Bacon.

Also taking place at the chapel, Dec. 18, is an open house. The open house will run from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and will feature giveaways and many other things for the soldiers, he said.

"We don't want any soldiers to feel that they are alone," said Bacon. "There are a lot of opportunities to have fun, even in a combat zone."

Along with the chaplain's work to spruce up the holiday season, soldiers across the installation are decorating their areas to give their home away from home, a Christmas feel.

"I did it for the morale of the soldiers," said Spc. Janett Henriquez, who decorated the office of the 19th Support Center. "They are glad to see it."

Many soldiers who work around the decorations can feel the added happiness that the season can bring.

"When the soldiers see that someone has taken the time to create a Christmas for them it makes people happy," said Sgt. Linette Keller, who works in the 19th's office.



The LSA Anaconda chapel's tree uses a patriotic theme to bring Christmas cheer to soldiers.

Christmas is a time for families and friends. Being in Iraq will keep thousands of soldiers from their loved ones, but their sacrifice will give the gift of freedom and peace to the Iraq people.

Service members can win RV vacations

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (Army News Service, Dec. 10, 2003) – Service members can win a two-week RV vacation through a contest which ends Dec. 31.

The RV Reunion Tour contest will award four grand prizes worth over \$20,000 to servicemen and women who submit essays with the most compelling stories about the family and friends they would most like to reunite with during an RV vacation. Each grand-prize winner will receive a two-week vacation in a Class A (bus style) motor home. Everyone who enters the contest will be provided with a voucher for \$50 to be used toward RV travel.

El Monte RV, exclusive provider of RV rental vacations for the government and Armed Forces Travel Cooperative

(GovArm.com), kicked off its RV Reunion Tour contest, which will provide more than \$1 million toward travel for military personnel.

The RV Reunion Tour contest is sponsored by the military services' Morale, Welfare and Recreation offices and GovArm.com. MWR provides quality support and recreational services that contribute to the retention, readiness, and mental, physical and emotional well being of its servicemen and women. GovArm.com is a travel cooperative of MWR that provides leisure travel discounts for government and military personnel.

To enter the essay contest, military personnel can visit either elmonterv.com or govarm.com. The contest runs through Dec. 31. Winners will be announced in early 2004.



Davis Hubb resists his flu shot in Whitefish, Montana

Flu vaccinations running low

(CNN) — Widespread outbreaks have been reported in at least 13 states but health officials say this year's flu season has not yet peaked — and vaccine supplies are running low.

"It hasn't reached what we call the epidemic threshold status yet, in terms of deaths from influenza-like illness," said Dr. Julie Gerberding, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia. "But we won't be surprised if that happens given the pattern emerging right now."

Because of the increased public concern, demand for flu vaccines is surging upward after makers of the vaccine have finished shipping for the season to health care providers.

The CDC is working to redistribute what remains in American stock and are asking European drug companies to send over any doses they can spare.

Base Operations releases new road policy for Anaconda

**compiled by Sgt. Grant Calease
3d COSCOM Public Affairs Office**

Due to Logistical Support Area Anaconda's reliable bus service a new policy has been released regarding vehicles on the installations roads.

Tracked vehicles, fuel tankers, stake-and-platforms, forklifts, earthmoving equipment and other such vehicles are no longer needed for basic transportation. The situation here has stabilized to the point where these types of vehicles should only be used for their intended purposes and parked when such use is not absolutely necessary.

The base command is concerned that the current driving situation on LSA Anaconda represents a deadly accident

waiting to happen. LSA Anaconda was never designed to support the type of vehicles that are currently being operated here. The roads are narrow and the sight distances are short, creating a dangerous situation.

The new policy states; tracked vehicles are hereby restricted to Victory Loop, unless responding to a security situation under the control of the Base Defense Operations Center.

Golf carts, gators and other small four-wheel drive vehicles are restricted to the unit's organizational areas unless they are equipped the necessary and proper on-road safety equipment, such as; turn signals, reflectors, mirrors, seat belts, etc.

These vehicles were never designed

for use in normal traffic. Both tracked vehicles and the recreational-style vehicles were designed specifically for off-road use in open areas. Vision is restricted and they have few safety features designed for operations on surface streets.

Effective immediately, the Provost Marshal's Office will issue citations to soldiers found in violation of this policy and will have points assessed against them in accordance with the LSA Anaconda Motor Vehicle Traffic Enforcement Policy.

This information is available at Base Operations in Policy Letter 030-03.

TMC CLOSURE

The troop medical clinic will be closed on the following days except for emergency - life, limb or eyesight - situations:

Christmas - Thursday, Dec. 25, and New Year's - Thursday, Jan. 1. For more information contact Maj. Douglas Olney at 318-528-1413.

VEHICLE POLICY

No soldier or Department of the Army civilian is permitted to possess, operate or obtain a privately owned vehicle to include a motorcycle or other motorized vehicle. Any POVs in the possession of soldiers and DA civilians will be confiscated by the military police or base operations personnel.

MAILING HOME

With redeployment around the corner the time has come for soldiers to start mailing home personal items. A few things for the soldiers to remember are, one; with the surge of outgoing mail your items will take longer to get home and two; OCIE and TA-50 items can not be sent in the mail.

CONTACT US

The Desert Sustainer is a newsletter compiled printed and published by the 3rd Corps Support Command Public Affairs Office. Please send any comments, suggestions, submissions or story ideas to us by email at grant.calease@us.army.mil, or call 558-2053, or stop by Bldg. 4137.

Maryland hands top-ranked Gators first loss of season

GAINESVILLE, Fla. (AP) — Coach Gary Williams finally pushed his win total at Maryland from 299 to 300. That wasn't the only number that will need adjusting after Wednesday night's game.

The Terrapins helped Williams reach his

milestone with a 69-68 overtime win over No. 1 Florida, handing the Gators the loss in their first game after reaching the top spot in The Associated Press' poll.

Travis Garrison made a jumper with 18 seconds left for the winning points in a brutish, defensive, ugly game — but one that felt pretty good to Williams nonetheless.

"We haven't been consistent, but somehow we found the toughness to go out there and play tonight," said Williams, who improved to 300-155 in 15 seasons with the Terrapins.

Williams was stuck on 299 after a two-game losing streak that had Maryland (5-2) down in the "receiving votes" category of the latest poll.

Florida, meanwhile, fell to 0-2 in its first game after moving to No. 1. Last season, the Gators (5-1) made it to the top of the poll for the first time in program history, but lost 70-55 to Kentucky in their first game.

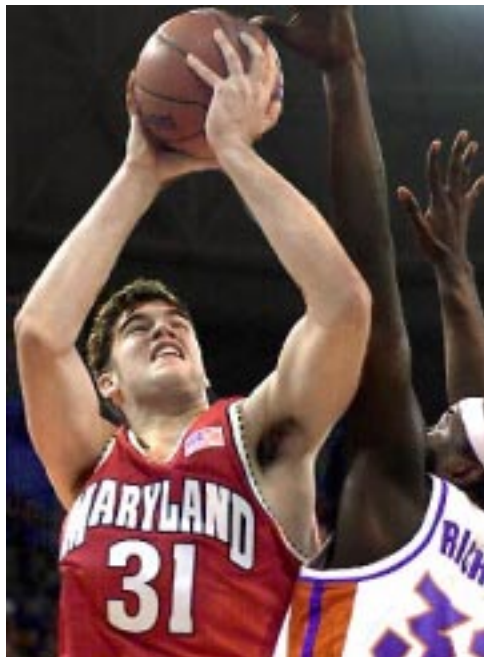
This loss all but guaranteed there will be a new top-ranked team for the fourth straight week on Monday; the Gators joined Connecticut and Kansas as the latest to fail to hold onto No. 1.

"The yellow jersey gets passed on to someone else," Florida coach Billy Donovan said.

Over 45 minutes, both these squads showed signs of greatness, and even bigger signs of the youth that pervades both teams.

Bigger, stronger and shooting as well as they had all season, the Terrapins got big hoops, rebounds and blocks from John Gilchrist (18 points), Jamar Smith (14 points, 12 rebounds) and Nik Caner-Medley (22 points, 13 rebounds) to build a 17-point lead early in the second half.

The game marked Florida's first nonconference home loss in 41 games. It was a turnabout from last year, when the Gators won at Maryland to snap its 87-game nonconference home winning streak.



Wil Bowers (31) and the Terps held on after almost blowing a big lead to defeat the top-ranked Gators.

NCAA Men's Basketball Top 20	
1. Florida	
2. UCONN	
3. Missouri	
4. Duke	
5. Kansas	
6. Texas	
7. North Carolina	
8. Kentucky	
9. Arizona	
10. Georgia Tech	
11. Oklahoma	
12. St. Joseph's	
13. Stanford	
14. Illinois	
15. Wake Forest	
16. Purdue	
17. Gonzaga	
18. Cincinnati	
19. Syracuse	
20. Pittsburgh	

National Hockey League				NBA Standings				NFL Standings			
EASTERN		WESTERN		EASTERN CONFERENCE		WESTERN CONFERENCE		AFC		NFC	
ATLANTIC		CENTRAL		ATLANTIC		MIDWEST		East		East	
Flyers	41	Red Wings	35	76ers	—	Rockets	—	Patriots	11-2	Eagles	10-3
Devils	34	Blues	35	Nets	1.5	Nuggets	0.5	Dolphins	8-5	Cowboys	8-5
Rangers	27	Predators	29	Celtics	2	Mavericks	0.5	Bills	6-7	Redskins	5-8
Islanders	24	Blue Jackets	20	Wizards	4.5	Grizzlies	1	Jets	5-8	Giants	4-9
Penguins	18	Black Hawks	20	Knicks	5.5	T-Wolves	1.5	West		West	
NORTHEAST		NORTHWEST		Heat	5.5	Jazz	1.5	Chiefs	11-2	Rams	10-3
Maple Leafs	38	Canucks	36	Magic	9	Spurs	1.5	Broncos	8-5	Seahawks	8-5
Bruins	34	Avalanche	36	CENTRAL		PACIFIC		Raiders	3-9	49ers	6-7
Senators	30	Flames	30	Pacers	—	Lakers	—	Chargers	3-10	Cardinals	3-10
Canadiens	28	Oilers	25	Hornets	2	Kings	—	North		North	
Sabres	27	Wild	25	Pistons	3	Blazers	7.5	Ravens	8-5	Vikings	8-5
SOUTHEAST		PACIFIC		Raptors	3.5	Warriors	7.5	Bengals	7-6	Packers	7-6
Thrashers	32	Kings	31	Bucks	7	Sonics	8	Steelers	5-8	Bears	5-8
Lightning	31	Sharks	29	Hawks	10.5	Clippers	9.5	Browns	4-9	Lions	4-9
Hurricanes	25	Mighty Ducks	27	Bulls	11	Suns	10	South		South	
Panthers	23	Coyotes	26	Cavs	11.5			Colts	10-3	Panthers	9-4
Capitals	18	Stars	25					Titans	9-4	Saints	6-7
								Texans	5-8	Buccaneers	6-7
								Jaguars	4-9	Falcons	2-11